

# NASA News

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## **NASA SUMMER HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM INSPIRES LOCAL STUDENTS**

Exceptional high school students locally and from across the nation are experiencing the "real world" at NASA.

The agency has launched its 2004 NASA Summer High School Apprenticeship Research Program (SHARP) in which a group of high-achieving students are selected from a nationwide pool of applicants to serve as apprentices in a variety of professions. Selected students represent nearly every state in the country, as well as the U.S. territories of Puerto Rico and American Samoa. In addition, the NASA Wallops Flight Facility, Wallops Island, Va., is partnering with the National Space Club, Washington, D.C., to provide internships to local students.

Four local students were selected to participate in the eight-week SHARP program and five students were selected to participate in the six-week National Space Club Scholars Program.

The SHARP students are:

Melissa Waterfield, Arcadia High School, Oak Hall, Va.; Katrina LaCurts, Pocomoke (Md.) High School; and Samuel Arumala and Jennifer Higgins, Parkside High School, Salisbury, Md.

The National Space Club Scholars are:

Andrew Cropper and Joshua Barnes, Nandua High School, Onley, Va.; Rachel Patterson, Broadwater Academy, Exmore, Va.; and Andrew Bratten and Kyle Shahan, James M. Bennett High School, Salisbury, Md.

SHARP's synergistic approach to learning provides students with research-based mentoring focused on NASA's mission, facilities, human resources and varied research

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components. The annual summer program advances NASA's goal of engaging under-represented students in research opportunities and reinforces educational excellence in science, technology, engineering, mathematics and geography. The program also seeks to enrich and inspire students during the eight-week period by promoting interaction within their academic, workplace and social environments.

"NASA is committed to inspiring the next generation of explorers, as only NASA can," said Deborah Glasco, Program Manager, Elementary and Secondary Education Division, Office of Education. "SHARP is a direct extension of this commitment, dedicated to academically and professionally motivating a diverse group of youth," she said.

The National Space Club Scholars Program provides high school students with an opportunity to experience how research and development organizations operate on a day-to-day basis in direct support of NASA's mission to inspire the next generation of explorers.

Both programs are designed to increase, strengthen and diversify the pool of students for mathematics, science and engineering college majors and careers. The programs offer an intensive science and engineering apprenticeship. The summer students participate in and conduct meaningful research and are involved in many educational and professional activities.

For more information on NASA education programs, visit the Internet at:

<http://education.nasa.gov>

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